

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2614

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS ID

SUBJECT: LOS

REF: JAKARTA 2277

1. I HAD FURTHER INCONCLUSIVE CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE MOCHTAR ON LOS MATTERS AT RECEPTION FOR KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER MARCH 1.

2. MOCHTAR CONFIRMED HE AND MARSHAL SOEDARMONO WOULD NOT BE AT OPENING OF LOS CONFERENCE GENEVA. MOCHTAR RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING ELECTION BILL THROUGH PARLIAMENT; SOEDARMONO WILL REMAIN FOR COMMANDERS' CALL AT END OF MARCH. THEIR SCHEDULES THUS WOULD APPEAR PRECLUDE MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIA PRIOR CONFERENCE UNLESS WE WISH SEND EMISSARY HERE.

3. WHEN I ASKED MOCHTAR WHERE THIS LEFT US, HE REPLIED THAT INDONESIANS MAKING GREAT PROGRESS ON ARCHIPELAGO AND NOW HAVE SUFFICIENT AFRICAN, ARAB, AND ASIAN VOTES TO ACHIEVE IT AT CONFERENCE EVEN WITHOUT BIG POWER SUPPORT. HE SAID RUSSIANS WERE MORE FLEXIBLE IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS THAN U.S., ALTHOUGH THEY, TOO, INSISTED ON TIEING ARCHIPELAGO IN WITH FREE PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS. "YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH THEM," HE SAID.

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4. I REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF WE DID NOT EACH TAKE EXTRA STEP NECESSARY TO REACH AGREEMENT SINCE WE WERE SO CLOSE. I WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD AGREE IT WAS PREFERABLE TO HAVE SUPPORT OF MAJOR MARITIME POWERS FOR ARCHIPELAGO IF THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED. HE SHOULD ALSO REALIZE THAT SOVIETS MAY BE SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE BECAUSE THEY HAVE LESS TRAFFIC THROUGH AREA. IT IS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING U.S. TRAFFIC MORE IMPORTANT TO INDONESIA. HE AGREED, BUT SAID IT WOULD APPEAR EVEN SO TO BE DIFFICULT FOR INDONESIA PUBLICLY TO SUPPORT FREE PASSAGE, IF THAT WAS REQUIREMENT FOR OUR SUPPORT ON ARCHIPELAGO.

5. CONFIRMING THAT WE FELT AGREEMENT ON STRAITS ESSENTIAL TO SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGO, I SAID THAT, NEVERTHELESS, WE WERE NOT WEDDED TO SEMANTICS AND WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENT ON BASIS BRITISH PROPOSAL ON STRAITS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY THIS. I ASKED HIM TO DO SO AND GIVE ME OPINION.

6. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD BE PREPARED SUPPORT ARCHIPELAGO IF INDONESIA SUPPORTED UK DRAFT. I SAID IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING SOME DETAILS ON DEFINITION OF ARCHIPELAGO REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT THAT, IF THESE COULD BE AGREED TO, WE WOULD FIND BRITISH DRAFT SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR AGREEMENT.

7. COMMENT: I HAVE FEELING MOCHTAR HAS NEVER REALLY BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH US ON ARCHIPELAGO AND STRAITS THAT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH INDONESIA'S THIRD WORLD STANCE. HE IS OBVIOUSLY TEMPTED BY THOUGHT THAT INDONESIA COULD ACHIEVE POLITICAL VICTORY AT LOS CONFERENCE BY MAJORITY ADOPTION ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT, ALTHOUGH HE REALIZES THIS WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IN PRACTICAL TERMS WITHOUT SUPPORT MARITIME POWERS. HE MAY BELIEVE SOVIET UNION WOULD, IN LAST ANALYSIS, THROW TO INDONESIA SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL REASONS WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON STRAITS. POSSIBILITY OF SOME MOVEMENT ON OUR PART AWAY FROM STRICT REQUIREMENT ON FREE PASSAGE OBVIOUSLY NOW INTERESTS HIM. WE WILL AWAIT HIS COMMENTS ON UK DRAFT, BUT MEANWHILE WILL ALSO FIND EARLY OPPORTUNITY TAKE LATEST READING FROM

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